

--- 2½ Pounds - “Plug Tobacco” - *fine roulette* - 89 x 26 mm. ---

The sole control numbered listing of the two and one-half pound “Plug Tobacco” stamp **RM-400** is the overprint by BABN to **7 POUNDS** used by “Imperial Tobacco”, St. John's, Newfoundland, in November 1949. The hidden letters on the 2½ pound die are “H-E”, and Chris Ryan reports that the two and one-half pound die was submitted for approval on March 9th 1938. BABN records indicate that the plate was prepared for 50 stamps - (probably 5 x 10).



★ **RM-400n** - 2½ pounds, black, *fine roulette*, without control numbering

In 1949 **BABN** overprinted **RM-400** with a central dark blue 6½ mm. Gothic inscription **7 POUNDS**, plus four 6½ mm. dark blue corner *killer squares* ■ as **RM-407**. The scanned copy was used by “Imperial Tobacco”, St. John's, Newfoundland, **1-5M**, after Newfoundland's Confederation with Canada in May 1949.

The control numbers likely come from the 2½ pound sequence, for which use the sheets had originally been prepared by BABN, although it is possible that they may have been the beginning of a new seven pound denomination control sequence.

It just seems odd that, with a control number already at **0335687**, the unsurcharged 2½ pounds stamp, **RM-400**, has not been discovered in used condition. It is unlikely that so many of the elusive seven pound packages could have been sold in Newfoundland. Where are the other 335,686 stamps?



★ **RM-407 - 7 POUNDS** overprint in dark blue ink on **RM-400**, black, *fine roulette*, control number **0335687**, cancelled **1-5M / BBD** by “Imperial Tobacco”, St. John's Newfoundland in November 1949

|                  |       |           |  |
|------------------|-------|-----------|--|
| <b>0335687</b> ★ | 11/49 | M-496/493 | <b>7 POUNDS</b> on 2½ pounds, fine roulette, coded <b>1-5M / BBD</b> |
| <b>0343631</b> ★ | 12/49 | M-496/493 | <b>7 POUNDS</b> on 2½ pounds, fine roulette, coded <b>1-5M / CBD</b> |

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